



Douglas I Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions.

Mar 24, 2009

I am writing in answer to your letter of March 19, 2009. I read all of the material you sent. Obviously according to this, there is no hope of ever getting a patent on the Secure Condom Application that I sent in originally.

I had done everything neccesary to get a patent in 2002, when the Examiner Michael Brown sent me a letter stating that if I sent in \$475.00 he would extend my application for 3 months (90 days),. I received this letter after several months of inactivity by the patent office. I called MR. Brown before going to work and asked him point blank that if I sent in the \$475.00 would I then get a Patent.

The answer he gave me was that there was nothing patentable in my Application. I ask you what would you think if someone who was in the position of being able to give you a patent or deny you getting a patent told you this. Why would I send in a large amount of money for the patent examiner to sit on it for another 3 months when in his estimation there was nothing patentable in my application.

At this stage of the game I figured that I would never get a patent, so I quite frankly gave up on the idea. I know when I am licked. A couple of years later I was visiting my brother in Elwood, Illinois. I told him about the patent application that I had sent in. He was quite good running computers and was able to get a printout of my application just like a patent printout would look.

At that time, I figured that since the application had not been rejected because of infringing on other patents that I should have gotten a patent. If Mr. Brown had not stated that there was nothing patentable in my application, I would certainly have paid the \$475.00,

Have you even looked at my Patent application, or are you only concerned with the crossed t's and dotted I's of the many ridiculous hoops that the Patent Office makes potential inventors ~~jump thru?~~ jump thru?

From a common sense view, my condoms would go a long ways toward stopping the AIDS Epidemic. Shouldn't this have more importance than the juvenile rules that exist in the patent Office. I have made prototypes of the Secure Condom by taking condoms of prior art and placing them over a wooden male member made from a shovel handle carved to the shape of a male member. I then overlapped the first inches and glued the overlaps with non hardening rubber glue. (The glue does not form a hard surface when dry) My member is not extremely large and a condom of prior art fits loosely on the head, just as my condoms would fit loosely on the head of other users. I put lubricant inside and can state from experience that once installed there was no sensation of having a condom on.

These Secure Condoms are so comfortable that people would use them that would not use the current condoms. Recently 8,000,000 condoms were sent to South Africa to stem the AIDS epidemic there, but it was reported that the men there will not use them.

Since AIDS and other venereal diseases are spread by contact and cannot be prevented by pills, condoms are the only line of defense.

I went to a Patent Attorney a couple of years ago here in Denver and told him my story. \$250.00 later he said that if a patent App. is printed before a patent is given, it is impossible to ever get a patent. Is this right?

You mentioned several letters that were supposedly sent me in 2003. The only ones I got were the request for \$475.00 and notice of abandonment.

It would be amusing if it wasn't so painful the patent offices ob-
session with time periods. They don't mind letting applications sit
around for 18 months without doing anything, but let some individual
let an answer to the patent office delay a short time and they want
a bunch of money to extend the application for 3 months.

As simple as my patent idea was it should have been patented within 3 months from the time I sent it in, not diddled around for 18 months and then trying to shake me down for \$475.00 so they could diddle me for another 3 months.

I felt that it was important to get these condoms in production as fast as possible and even sent in \$130.00 to put the application on the fast track. I got a letter from Mr. Brown stating that he didn't know what I was trying to patent, yet I can show you 4 or 5 condom related patents with Mr. Brown's name on them as examiner. All I ever got from Mr. Brown was the run around. Is this the normal procedure when an individual tries to patent an idea.

One letter he wrote me was that he couldn't see what it was because it didn't have numbers on its various parts. How many parts does something as simple as a condom have?

I realize this is like flogging a dead horse. With the Patent Office the crossed t's and dotted I's are more important than the actual substance of an invention.

HOW MANY USEFUL INVENTIONS HAVE NEVER SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY BECAUSE THE MAN WITH THE IDEA COULD NOT AFFORD A PATENT ATTORNEY AND THE PATENT OFFICE MAKES SPORT OF HIS EFFORTS TO PATENT HIS IDEA WITHOUT THE HELP OF A PATENT ATTORNEY.

Cleon Griffiths

PS If Mr. Brown had not stated that there was nothing patentable in my application, I would have sent the \$475.00 but when he made that statement I gave up. Now I am invited to send in \$810.00 so the patent office can say my application is dismissed. Not a chance.

A demonstrator holds a red ribbon, the symbol of AIDS awareness, during a march marking World AIDS Day in Saint Marc, Haiti, on Sunday. Haiti, a nation of 9 million, remains the most affected by HIV in the Caribbean.

Debate over AIDS funding

Some experts say money should go to other diseases, too

By Maria Cheng
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — As World AIDS Day is marked today, some experts are growing more outspoken in complaining that AIDS is eating up funding at the expense of more pressing health needs.

They argue that the world has entered a post-AIDS era in which the disease's spread has largely been curbed in much of the world, Africa excepted.

"AIDS is a terrible humanitarian tragedy, but it's just one of many terrible humanitarian tragedies," said Jeremy Shiffman, who studies health spending at Syracuse University.

Roger England of Health Systems Workshop, a think tank in the Caribbean island of Grenada, goes further. He argues that UNAIDS, the U.N. agency leading the fight against AIDS, has outlived its purpose and should be disbanded.

"The global HIV industry is too big and out of control. We have created a monster with too many vested interests and reputations at stake . . . too many relatively well-paid HIV staff in affected countries, and too many rock stars with AIDS support as a fashion accessory," he wrote in the *British Medical Journal* in May.

Paul de Lay, a director at UNAIDS, disagrees. It's valid to question AIDS' place in the world's priorities, he says, but he insists the turnaround is recent and it would be wrong to think the epidemic is under control.

"We have an epidemic that has caused



ELIZABETH DALZIEL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

People reach out to grab free information about AIDS at a stall set up at the Bird's Nest national stadium in Beijing.

between 55 million and 60 million infections," de Lay said. "To suddenly pull the rug out from underneath that would be disastrous."

U.N. officials estimate that about 33 million people worldwide have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Scientists say infections peaked in the late 1990s and are unlikely to spark epidemics beyond Africa.

In developed countries, AIDS drugs have turned the once-fatal disease into a manageable illness.

England argues that closing UNAIDS would free up its \$200 million annual budget for other health problems such as pneumonia, which kills more children every year than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

"By putting more money into AIDS, we are implicitly saying it's OK for more kids to die of pneumonia," England said.

His comments touch on the bigger complaint: that AIDS hogs money and may damage other health programs.

By 2006, AIDS funding accounted for 80 percent of all American aid for health and population issues, according to the Global Health Council.

In Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and elsewhere, donations for HIV projects outstrip the entire national health budgets.

In a 2006 report, Rwandan officials noted a "gross misallocation of resources" in health: \$47 million went to HIV, \$18 million went to malaria, the country's biggest killer, and \$1 million went to childhood illnesses.

These competing claims on public money are likely to grow louder as the world financial meltdown threatens to deplete health dollars.

There are a number of diseases that are spread by contact, and the only way to prevent these diseases is with condoms. The current type of condoms are just like going wading in overshoes. There is not nearly the sensation gotten without a condom on. The secure condoms give a natural feeling just as if you don't have a condom on since there is no binding around the sensitive part of the male member known as the GLANS PENIS.



US 20020139373A1

(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication
Griffiths

(10) Pub. No.: US 2002/0139373 A1

(43) Pub. Date: Oct. 3, 2002

(54) SECURE CONDOM

(76) Inventor: Cleon Louis Griffiths, Lakewood, CO (US)

Correspondence Address:
Cleon L. Griffiths
10080 West 8Th Place
Lakewood, CO 80215 (US)

(21) Appl. No.: 09/825,483

(22) Filed: Apr. 3, 2001

Publication Classification

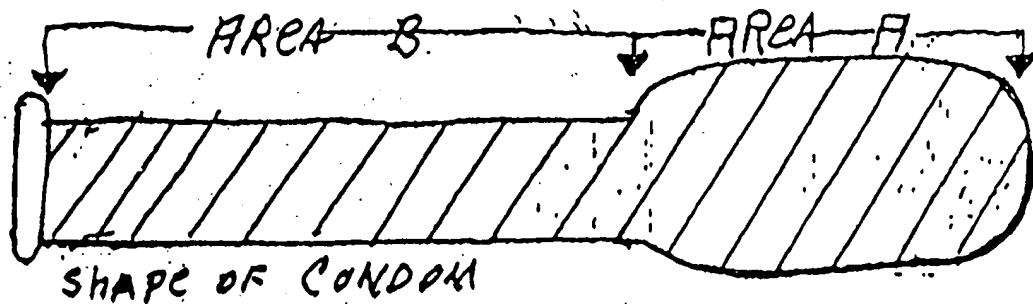
(51) Int. Cl. 7 A61F 6/04

(52) U.S. Cl. 128/844

(57)

ABSTRACT

Visualize a condom shaped like a lollipop, the part resembling the stick, of smaller circumference than the shaft of the male member it fits, said smaller circumference will not fit easily over the head of said male member, but will require a small amount of effort to remove said condom which will not accidentally come off, even when lubricated, an installation ring is necessary to install said condom with said small circumference area rolled up and stretched onto a groove on the outside circumference of said ring, said condoms and said rings will come in various sizes, the part of said condom resembling the candy part of said lollipop will fit loosely around the head of said male member, preventing splitting and enhancing the sensation of sexual intercourse since enlarged area does not bind the sensitive Glans Penis of male member, free cardboard gauges are available determining correct size for user.



Area (B) will not fit easily over the head of a male member, therefore it is necessary to have area (B) rolled up on an installation ring which has a hole in the center large enough for the head of the male member to enter into the area (A). This area (B) will not easily go over the head of the male member so it will not come off accidentally even with lubricant inside for a completely natural sensation.

Area (A) will be of larger circumference than condoms of prior art so the head of the male member is not binded as with current condoms. The loose fit of area (A) does not bind the Glans Penis, the sensitive area of the male member. This looseness and the fact that this condom can be lubricated inside without fear of the condom coming off, is the same as intercourse without a condom on.

